

Serial No.: 08/963,368
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In the Claims:

27. (Amended) A molecular library of retroviruses according to claim 23, wherein said fusion partner comprises a [multimerization] dimerization sequence.

REMARKS

Claims 16-28 are pending.

An Appendix with the claims as pending is attached for the Examiner's convenience. Favorable consideration of the following comments relative to the outstanding rejections as they may apply to the present claims is respectfully requested for the reasons that follow.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as lacking proper written description in the specification. The Examiner contends a fusion partner which comprises a "multimerization sequence" is not supported by the specification's use of "dimerization sequence." Applicants respectfully traverse.

Without admitting the propriety of the rejection, in the interests of furthering the prosecution, Claim 27 has been amended to recite a "dimerization" sequence. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 16-22 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mirabelli *et al.*, Pat. No. 5,639,595 in view of Kaufman *et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Mirabelli is directed to antisense technology. That is, Mirabelli teaches the use of random oligonucleotide sequences cloned into DNA plasmid vectors and introduced into cells for screening for antisense molecules which confer a desired cellular phenotype.